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WINDY HILL GARDENS

"Peyton's Peerless Peonies"

RAPIDAN, VIRGINIA

AUGUST 1, 1932

A REPRESENTATIVE PEONY GARDEN OF TWO HUNDRED VARIETIES

This list is composed of the twenty-five best, white, blush, light pink, dark pink and red: the ten best near yellow and the thirty best Japanese and singles. For a smaller list, just cut off as many from the bottom of each list as will leave the number you wish. There are five varieties that are put in for sentimental reasons. The first variety listed in each list is the Standard of Excellence for that list and is always an old variety that is outstanding in its class, though not necessarily the best one in that list.

The color line is hard to draw and there are always varieties that might be listed in two lists. Some word of comment is usually added.

DOUBLE PEONIES

WHITE

1. Festiva maxima, the Standard of Excellence for eighty years.
2. Kelway's Glorious, as near perfect as possible.
3. Duchesse de Nemours, old but beautiful, not a good stem.
4. Albatre or Avalanche, occasionally affected by the weather.
5. James Kelway, a creamy white of the first water.
6. Le Cygne, perfect in symmetry, but often fails.
7. Mrs. Edward Harding, the finest pure white without markings.
8. Frances Willard, one of Brand's best.
9. Marie Lemoine, unreliable, but a glorious flower.
10. General Gorgas, strongly marked red, big and fine.
11. Frances Shaylor, when well done stands up near the top.
12. Denise, strong, upright, immense, red marked.
13. Ball o' Cotton, Franklin's finest white, not large but excellent.
14. Argentine, late and uncertain but a grand flower when it blooms.
15. Odalisque, a more certain and looser built Le Cygne.
16. Alsace-Lorraine, a beautiful water lily flower.
17. Mrs. Shaylor Force, nearly as good as Mrs. Edward Harding.
18. Madame Crousse, old, but few better.

19. Mrs. Frank Beach, a very fine white which might be listed under blush.
20. Mrs. A. M. Brand, one of the best, but so late it rarely blooms.
21. Priscilla Alden, one of the new early whites that has promise.
22. Grace Loomis, a massive white that is grand when it blooms.
23. Madame de Verneville, a fine bomb that is old and reliable.
24. Madame Edouard Doriat, loose built and beautiful.
25. Couronne d'Or, Crown of Gold, a ring of stamens adds much to it.

BLUSH

1. Baroness Schroeder, a very perfect peony.
2. Odile, very new but destined to be one of the finest.
3. Marie Jacquin, exquisitely dainty.
4. Solange, wondrously colored, but sometimes fails.
5. Tourangelle, its sunset tints cannot be excelled, stem weak.
6. Alice Harding, splendid in flower, foliage and growth.
7. Cornelia Shaylor, a grand late.
8. Madame Jules Dessert, another of the beautiful tinted peonies.
9. Nanette, loosely built, inimitably colored, fine stems.
10. Daphne, nearly as good as Kelway's 'Glorious'.
11. Dr. J. H. Neeley, promises to be of first rank.
12. Nick Shaylor, may supplant Solange in most gardens.
13. Pompilia, a dainty peony.
14. Madame Emile Lemoine, tall and stately.
15. Biebrich, a German that is fine.
16. Florence Macbeth, very attractively colored, but late.
17. Frankie Curtis, a white Mons. Jules Elie.
18. Modella, good habit and colored exquisitely.
19. John M. Good, rather dwarf but splendid.
20. Madame Claude Tain, bids fair to rival Baroness Schroeder.
21. Sarah K. Thurlow, a beauty of the first rank.
22. Mrs. Harriet Gentry, late but a good opener.
23. Frank E. Good, another of near Solange coloring.
24. La Lorraine, splendid when not diseased.
25. Jubilee, an exhibition peony of the first rank. Weak stems.

LIGHT PINK

1. Reine Hortense or President Taft. Splendid size and strength.
2. Therese, for nearly thirty years the greatest pink.
3. Lady Alexandra Duff, The Long Lost Peony, but worth finding.
4. Judge Berry, early and floriferous.
5. Octavie Demay, dwarf, one of the first to bloom, dainty.
6. Georgiana Shaylor, one of Shaylor's best.
7. Eugenie Verdier, large and tall.
8. Souvenir de Louis Bigot, a light pure pink.
9. Jeannot, late and delicately colored.

10. Venus, all that its name implies, a Queen of Love and Beauty.
11. Phyllis Kelway, loosely built and a delicately shaded pink.
12. Edwin C. Shaw, Thurlow's best.
13. President Wilson, the near rival of No. 12.
14. Victory Chateau Thierry, the best of Brand's Thirteen for us.
15. Maman Millet, Millet's masterpiece and one we all should have.
16. Mrs. C. S. Minot, dwarf and two toned.
17. Flow'ret of Eden, tall and beautifully shaded. Stamens show.
18. Kelway's Queen, one of Kelway's of which many varieties were sold under this name.
19. Milton Hill, would stand way up but a mighty poor doer.
20. Ninon, a color all its own.
21. Myrtle Gentry, the silver medal peony of Brand's Thirteen.
22. Silvia Saunders, dainty, loose built, exquisite.
23. Minnie Shaylor, similar to No. 22 but more robust.
24. Madame Calot, old but near perfect.
25. Pride of Essex, similar to No. 3, taller.

DARK PINK

1. Monsieur Jules Elie, many think the best in peonies.
2. Walter Faxon, the nearest to a pure pink.
3. *Edulis superba*, introduced in 1824 and still in a class of its own.
4. Sarah Bernhardt, as fine as the finest.
5. *Gigantea*, outstanding in size, weak stem.
6. *Gloriana*, good in every way.
7. Claire Dubois, a splendid late.
8. Raoul Dessert, approaches No. 2 for purity in color.
9. Martha Bulloch, Brand's first great prize winner.
10. Phoebe Cary, another Brand that many think above Martha Bulloch.
11. June Day, Franklin's masterpiece and a great peony.
12. James R. Mann, often of exceptional beauty.
13. Charlot, very striking in color and carriage.
14. Nancy Dolman, Vories's great peony.
15. Reine Baronet, of a peculiar color that many like.
16. Clemenceau, worthy of the great name it bears.
17. Ella Christiansen, an outstanding one of Brand's Thirteen.
18. Madelon, especially fine color.
19. Grace Batson, spectacular in size and carriage.
20. James William Kelway, upright and a purple pink that many like.
21. Blanche King, a prize winner in Brand's Thirteen.
22. Madame Emile Debatene, a second Souvenir de Louis Bigot but darker.
23. Mrs. John M. Kleitsch, immense in growth and flower.
24. Strassburg, another spectacular peony, loosely built.
25. Margaret Vierheller, Wettengel's best.

RED

1. Adolphe Rousseau, of many forms, but always fine.
2. Philippe Rivôire, like an immense rose in every way.
3. Felix Crousse, good and reliable, weak stem.
4. Karl Rosenfield, pure in color and good in performance, late.
5. Longfellow, about the purest red in chinensis peonies.
6. Lora Dexheimer, a better bloomer and almost as good a color.
7. Mary Brand, thought by many the best performer.
8. Monsieur Martin Cahusac, valuable on account of its darkness.
9. Richard Carvel, sweet scented and a fine early.
10. Cherry Hill, very early and very tall, also very red.
11. Inspecteur Lavergne, some brown, similar to Felix Crousse.
12. Red Bird, unique in color and unique in every way.
13. Souvenir de A. Millet, very tall, beautiful red.
14. Madame Gaudichau, remarkable for its foliage, very dark maroon.
15. Auguste Dessert, pink or red as you will, a vivid color.
16. Grover Cleveland, at its best, very perfect in form.
17. Matilda Lewis, a rival of Cahusac in color, better in many ways.
18. Brand's Magnificent, a blue red that is a great show flower.
19. Aviateur Lindbergh, disappointing at first, then a fine red.
20. Commander, a splendid opener for a late, very large peony.
21. Winnifred Domme, a Brand variety of excellent color.
22. Janes Oleson, a new one of good habit and height.
23. Grace Ott, a loosely built red of value.
24. Mary C. Wedge, Secor's best red.
25. Mr. L. van Leeuwen, pink or red as you will, a great exhibition flower.

NEAR YELLOW

1. Primevere, the best, take it all in all.
2. Laura Dessert, its bitter rival.
3. Jeanne d'Arc or Golden Harvest, with pink guards, a beauty.
4. Luella Shaylor, once seen, always desired.
5. Fanny Crosby, one of the best.
6. Philomele, very pink and very yellow, just beyond an anemone.
7. Golden Dawn, similar to Nos. 1 and 2.
8. Isoline, good at first, gets ragged.
9. Mademoiselle Jeanne Riviere, of great daintiness.
10. Betty Blossom, a full double with a decided yellow glow.

THE SENTIMENTAL VARIETIES

1. *Officinalis rubra plena*, our Grandmother's red.
2. *Whitleyii* or Queen Victoria, the second peony to be introduced.
3. *Fragrans*, the first and

4. Humei the third, all worth growing. No. 2 blush, No. 3 and 4 pink.
5. Louis van Houtte, the oldest good red chinensis peony.

JAPANESE TYPE

1. Mikado, one of the first and hard to beat. Red.
2. Ama-no-sode, medium pink, the best all around Jap.
3. Isami Jishi (Isani Gidui), the loveliest peony. White.
4. Some Ganoko, a great big red.
5. Shiro Sangai, a white of great value.
6. Tamate-Boku, considered the finest Jap, but very slow. Pink.
7. Fuyajo, a dark red that is unbeatable.
8. Kamenno Kegoromo, a fine red.
9. Exquisite First, just what its name says. White.
10. Aureolin, guards pink with a very vivid yellow center.
11. Crimson and Gold, one of the best of the reds.
12. Kukeni Jishi, very light pink of the first water.
13. Instituteur Doriat, a dark red of almost anemone form.
14. Tokio, a tall upright pink of the best form.
15. Nippon Beauty, a dark red, very late and very floriferous.
16. Currant Jap, the color of ripe currants, splendid.
17. Crystal Queen, a pure white of almost anemone form.
18. Esther, a pale pink of similar form.
19. Fuji-zome-gorono, a lilac pink of the best.
20. Goddess, the best of the rose pink selfs.
21. Yellow King, very tall and large, very yellow center, pale pink.
22. Yokohama, a beautiful white.
23. Hakodate, a very rare fine white.
24. White Lady, similar to No. 3, almost its equal.
25. Henri Potin, a fine pink.
26. Petite Renee, a small very dainty pink.
27. Jeanne Lapandry, a large white with a pale yellow center.
28. Mrs. Hobart M. Cable, a light red, different from any other.
29. Torpilleur, a dark pink or light red that is sometimes double.
30. Wisteria, a very blue pink that is attractive.

SINGLE TYPE

1. Albifora, The Bride, or La Fiancee, the standard white.
2. Le Jour, the greatest white yet.
3. Pride of Langport, about the best pink.
4. Shirley Walker, one of the best, blush fading white, immense.
5. The Moor, the standard red.
6. Verdun, one of the two best reds.
7. Nellie, a light pink of great beauty.
8. President Lincoln, the second of the two best reds.

9. Helen, the second of the two best pinks.
10. Krinkled White, blush to white, late, among the best.
11. Catherine Parry, one of the best blush whites.
12. English Elegance, a pink that deserves its name.
13. Presto, a rather purple red of great size and beauty.
14. Mischief, a soft pink that is as beautiful as it is valuable.
15. Toreador, dark red, very late and so, very valuable.
16. Black Prince, the nearest rival to No. 15 in lateness. Red.
17. Edith West, a splendid white.
18. Jeanne Ernould, a rather dark pink that rapidly fades almost white.
19. Albiflora carnea, a pale pink, said to be the wild form.
20. L'Etincelante, vivid dark pink, very showy.
21. Winnebago Chief, one of the fine reds.
22. Flanders Field, very pure in color, dark red.
23. Vera, very large red.
24. Kelway's Wild Rose, unique in its lavender pink dots on white.
25. Pink Delight, one of the new fine pinks.
26. Harriet Olney, a rival of No. 20.
27. Sagoromo, a good pink of much beauty.
28. Rabelais, just as good as No. 27 and similar.
29. Mademoiselle Louise Delattre, a beautiful light pink fading white.
30. Purple Cup (Secor), a peony that its name tells its color. Fine.

The lists of Japanese and Single Type peonies could be extended to a greater length with profit to those who like these forms as necessarily there are many of the best omitted. It may be said that, as a rule, very similar varieties have not been listed. There are some ten or a dozen white singles that are so near to Albiflora The Bride as to be almost indistinguishable and are so to all but the most painstaking observer. The same may also be said of many reds. There are doubtless many of the very new peonies of all types that will gain a place above many of those listed here. Some of these very new ones have been given place where it was thought they had already won it.

The varieties have been listed in the order in which I should plant them if I were making a garden. Probably nobody else would adhere to the same order. You can make your own representative garden of as many varieties as you wish and of whatever forms and colors you may like from the lists as given, using any varieties in each list, and you will get a good assortment. There are no poor peonies listed, though some are poor doers, but very beautiful peonies.

Your comments are invited.

GEORGE W. PEYTON.

Rapidan, Virginia, August 1, 1932.

